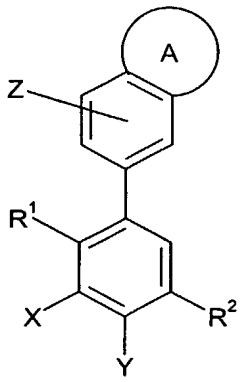
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, -$(CH_2)_k$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -$(CH_2)_kOR^3$, -$(CH_2)_kCO_2R^3$, -$(CH_2)_kNR^3R^4$, -$(CH_2)_kCONR^3R^4$, -$(CH_2)_kNHCOR^3$, -$(CH_2)_kSO_2NR^3R^4$, -$(CH_2)_kNHSO_2R^3$, -$(CH_2)_kSO_2(CH_2)_mR^5$, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl or -$(CH_2)_kCO_2R^3$, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl;

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring substituted by -BR^6, and

A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR^7, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO_2R^7 and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring substituted by -$(CH_2)_n$heterocyclyl wherein the heterocyclyl is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, -$(CH_2)_p$phenyl, -OR^7, -$(CH_2)_pCO_2R^7$, -NR^7R^8 and -$CONR^7R^8$, and

A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR^7, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO_2R^7 and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring substituted by -$(CH_2)_q$aryl or -$(CH_2)_q$heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -OR^9, -$(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$, -NR^9R^{10}, -$(CH_2)_rCONR^9R^{10}$, -$NHCOR^9$, -$SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, -$NHSO_2R^9$ and -$S(O)_sR^9$, and

A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR^7, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO_2R^7 and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R^1 is selected from methyl and chloro;

R^2 is selected from -NH-CO-R^{11} and -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12};

R^3 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, -$(CH_2)_k$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_k$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14} and -$(CH_2)_k$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14},

R^4 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^3 and R^4, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C_{2-6}alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R^{13} and/or R^{14} groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R^{13} and/or R^{14};

R^6 is a C_{3-6}alkyl group substituted by at least two substituents independently selected from -OR^{16}, -$NR^{16}R^{17}$, -CO_2R^{16}, -$CONR^{16}R^{17}$, -$NHCOR^{16}$ and -$NHSO_2R^{16}$;

R^7 and R^8 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^9 is selected from hydrogen, -$(CH_2)_u$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_u$heterocyclyl, -$(CH_2)_u$aryl, and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from -OR^{18} and -$NR^{18}R^{19}$,

R^{10} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^9 and R^{10}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{11} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -$(CH_2)_v$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21}, and -$(CH_2)_v$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21};

R^{12} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONHR^{22}$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21}, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{20} and/or R^{21};

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently selected from halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$CONR^{22}R^{23}$, -COR^{24} , -CO_2R^{24}, and heteroaryl, or

R^{13} and R^{14} are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, or a fused heteroaryl ring;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{20} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONR^{22}R^{23}$, -$NHCOR^{23}$, halogen, -CN, -$(CH_2)_w$$NR^{25}R^{26}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{21} groups;

R^{21} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -$(CH_2)_w$$NR^{25}R^{26}$;

R^{22} and R^{23} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{22} and R^{23}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15}, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{24} is C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{25} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_t$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{26} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{25} and R^{26}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{15};

R^{27} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

B is selected from a bond, oxygen, NH and $S(O)_x$;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

Z is selected from halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -OR^{27};

k, m and w are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

n, q, r, s, t and x are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; and

u and v are each independently selected from 0 and 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein A is substituted by -$(CH_2)_q$aryl or -$(CH_2)_q$heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -OR^9, -$(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$, -NR^9R^{10}, -$(CH_2)_rCONR^9R^{10}$, -$NHCOR^9$, -$SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, -$NHSO_2R^9$ and -$S(O)_sR^9$.

4. A compound according to anyone of the preceding claims wherein R^1 is methyl.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^2 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_t$-R^{12}.

6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

7. A compound according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 6, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

8. A compound selected from:

N-cyclopropyl-3-[5-fluoro-3-(4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide; and
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[5-fluoro-3-(4-pyridinyl)-1,2-benzisoxazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in therapy.

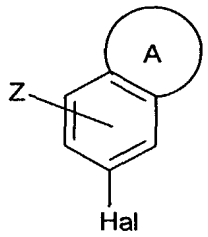
11. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

12. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

13. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

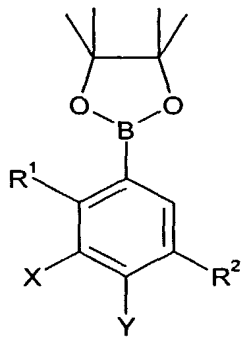
14. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, which comprises

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)

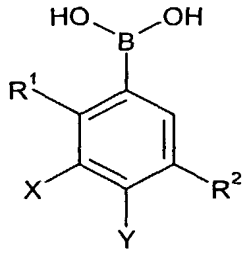


(II)

in which A is defined in claim 1 and Hal is halogen,
with a compound of formula (IIIA) or (IIIB)



(IIIA)



(IIIB)

in which R^1, R^2, X and Y are as defined in claim 1,
in the presence of a catalyst, or

(b) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.